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Inside Report

Soon-to-be-replaced CIA director Stansfield Turner emphasized a James Bond world of elaborate gadgetry over a more prosaic George Smiley world of agents, files, and dogged legwork — to the detriment of intelligence gathering, according to some in the intelligence community. As one agency observer says, he has been “overly technically minded,” favoring technical means, such as satellite and aerial reconnaissance, over what is inelegantly known as HUMINT, or human intelligence.

Turner may have been forced to turn more heavily to technical means as the unfavorable public climate the agency has weathered in recent years dried up some conventional human resources.